

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A tooth-hardening apparatus comprising:

a tooth-hardening member of a plate shape having a projection on its surface; and

a nipple attached on the tooth-hardening member; wherein the nipple has a predetermined hardness to provide a pacifier function and a tooth-hardening function.

2. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a gripping opening is disposed on both sides of the nipple on the tooth-hardening member.

3. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tooth-hardening member has a space formed substantially in the center portion of the tooth-hardening member, the space being covered with a transparent cover, and

the nipple is coupled to the tooth-hardening member through the transparent cover.

4. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of colored balls are contained in the space covered with the transparent cover.

5. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the transparent cover is provided with a drain hole.

6. (Currently Amended) A tooth-hardening apparatus for a teething infant, comprising:

a plate shaped first tooth-hardening member having a first surface provided with a plurality of first projections, wherein the plate lies in a plane; and

a plate shaped second tooth-hardening member having a second surface provided with a plurality of second projections;

wherein the plate shaped second tooth-hardening member is arranged at a periphery of the first tooth-hardening member and is extended from the periphery of the plate shaped first tooth hardening member in the plane in which the plate shaped first tooth lies,

the first surface of the first tooth-hardening member and the second surface of the second tooth-hardening member are formed of respective materials which have hardnesses different from each other, and

wherein the first surface of the first tooth-hardening member is harder than the second surface of the second tooth-hardening member which is arranged at the periphery of the first tooth-hardening member, and both the first and second tooth-hardening members are adapted to be chewed by the infant.

7. (Previously Presented) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first hardening member has a space formed substantially in a center portion of the first tooth-hardening member, the space being contained within two transparent covers which abut one another.

8. (Original) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a plurality of colored balls are contained in the space covered with the transparent cover.

9. (Original) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the transparent cover is provided with a drain hole.

10. (Original) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a gripping opening is disposed on the first tooth-hardening member.

11. (Withdrawn) A tooth-hardening apparatus comprising:
a first tooth-hardening member of substantially a plate shape having a first surface provided with a plurality of first projections;
a second tooth-hardening member of substantially a plate shape having a second surface provided with a plurality of second projections, and being arranged in parallel to the first tooth-hardening member; and
a coupling member for coupling the first tooth-hardening member to the second tooth-hardening member; wherein
the first surface of the first tooth-hardening member and the second surface of the second tooth-hardening member are formed of respective materials which have hardnesses different from each other.

12. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first tooth-hardening member has a space formed substantially in the center portion of the first tooth-hardening member, the space being covered with a transparent cover.

13. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a plurality of colored balls are contained in the space covered with the transparent cover.

14. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the transparent cover is provided with a drain hole.

15. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the coupling member is composed of a plurality of curved members.

16. (Withdrawn) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the first and second tooth-hardening members is so configured as to firstly come close to the other member from the center portion toward the periphery, and then to separate from the other member.

17. (Withdrawn) The tooth hardening apparatus for a teething infant of claim 1, wherein the plate shaped first tooth-hardening member further comprises a second surface provided with a plurality of second projections;

the plate shaped second tooth-hardening member further comprises a first surface provided with a plurality of first projections,

wherein the hardness of the first surface of the plate shaped first tooth-hardening member differs from the hardness of the second surface of the first tooth-hardening member and/or the

hardness of the first surface of the plate shaped second tooth-hardening member differs from the hardness of the second surface of the second tooth-hardening member.

18. (Currently Amended) A tooth-hardening apparatus for a teething infant, comprising:

an annular plate shaped first tooth-hardening member having a top surface provided with a plurality of projections, wherein the plate lies in a plane; and

oval plate shaped second tooth-hardening members having a top surface provided with a plurality of projections;

wherein the oval plate shaped second tooth-hardening members are arranged at an outer peripheral edge of the annular plate shaped first tooth-hardening member at locates separated from one another and extended from the periphery of the annular plate shaped first tooth hardening member in the plane in which the annular plate shaped first tooth lies,

the top surface of the annular plate shaped first tooth-hardening member and the top surface of the oval plate shaped second tooth-hardening members are formed of respective materials which have hardnesses different from each other, and

the top surface of the annular plate shaped first tooth-hardening member is harder than the top surface of the oval plate shaped second tooth-hardening members, and both the first and second tooth-hardening members are adapted to be chewed by the infant.